

Elmar N.V. creates Customer Relations Function ... pg 3



IMF, WBank warn on high food prices, ... pg 11

Indian Association of Aruba donates to three island foundations



St Michael's Pavillion receives a TV and washing machine

Members of the Board of the Indian Association of Aruba had the pleasant task yesterday of traveling to three non-profit island institutions to donate desperately needed items and appliances to the facilities with their daily chores and purpose.

IAA officers followed President Pracash Gupta from one end of the island to the other; literally, as they began their day by delivering a much needed washing machine and plasma screen TV to the San Pedro de Verona/ St. Michael's Pavilion care facility for the elderly, in

Oranjestad.

After receiving a warm word of gratitude from Head Nurse Gloria Granger, the team then made their way to Pos Chiquito to deliver a large stock of baby items, such as disposable diapers and more, plus a new sound system to the Casa Cuna Home for Children ages infant to 7 years old.

The group was soon on their merry way bringing cheer and badly needed art supplies along with another new sound system to the YMCA in San Nicolas, for a rewarding day of supporting

their community.

IAA President Gupta expressed thanks to all the IAA members for contributing towards these donations for important island foundations, as well as Boolchand's, Lucky Electronics and Pricesmart for providing the goods at special prices.

The board officers were pleased to briefly visit with the residents of St. Michael's and Casa Cuna, enabling to see first hand those who will benefit from their expression of community support.

by Rosalie Klein

Rietveld Academy interested in establishing on Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the prestigious and well known art institution, Rietveld Academy. This is one of the institutions which receive many visits

from local Aruban artists. In an effort to explore all potential working agreements both minister of Culture and minister of Education collaborated in signing the MOU.

The Minister of Culture shared how that for the past

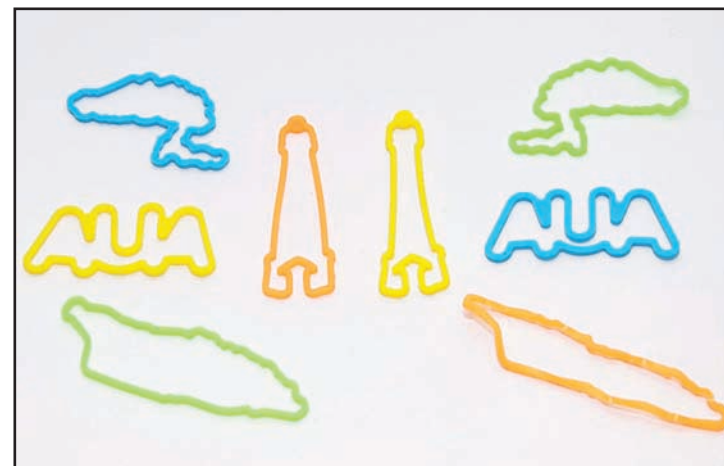
months they have been in contact with Rietveld Academy to explore the possibility for bringing a branch of the institute to Aruba and to find ways that they could work together with us here.

Continued on page 3

Soon on sale: Aruba Silly Bandz - and Special Olympics has got 'em!



Dr. Walker donates to Special Olympics



Aruba silly bandz

A popular craze in the U.S. has come to the island with a distinctly Aruban twist- Silly Bandz, the must-have fad for youngsters of all ages - but not your usual animal shapes and such.

These silly bands are the brainchild of a long-time Arubaphile who is now in the process of making the island his home, Dr. John, H. Walker, DMD. Dr Walker is from Boston, but has been vacationing on the island since 1997, eventually bringing his skills as an advanced orthodontist in jaw and bite reconstruction to the local population. A faculty member of the Boston University School of Orthodontics, he maintains a specialty practice

here and splits his time between Aruba and the U.S.

Dr. Walker noticed the current frenzy over Silly Bandz, and thought it would be profitable to have specialized, unique bands of iconic Aruban symbols made to sell as souvenirs to island visitors. He commissioned a thousand packets of silicone bracelets he designed himself, made in the shapes of the California Lighthouse, the famous Fofoti tree, the shape of Aruba and the standard airport designation for the island, AUA. They are packaged in batches of one dozen.

Continued on page 4

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

US House approves spending cut compromise

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The divided US House of Representatives approved a hard-fought compromise yesterday to cut some \$40 billion in spending, a skirmish in a broader war over the cash-strapped government's finances.

Lawmakers also faced fights over long-term budget blueprints sure to shape President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection fight against fired-up Republicans, as well as on lifting a cap on Washington's ability to borrow money.

The Republican-run House voted 260-167 to approve the spending deal, which funds Washington through September 30 while slicing some \$38.5 billion from domestic and foreign aid programs.

The Democratic-held Senate was expected to approve

the bill within hours, sending it to Obama to sign into law.

Eighty-one Democrats voted for the bill, showcasing a fragile political alliance that could smooth the way to approving an increase in the US "debt ceiling," a step the Tea

Party fiercely opposes.

The House is also expected to vote today on a long-term "budget," effectively a non-binding blueprint that serves as a political party's or candidate's core economic message to voters

Brazil airports won't be ready for World Cup

BRASILIA, Brazil (AFP) — Most Brazilian airports being renovated for the 2014 football World Cup will not be ready on time, likely causing major headaches for travelers, a government-backed study found Thursday.

There are about 70 public airports in Brazil, and many are in need of upgrades ahead of the World Cup in three years and the 2016 Olympics due to take place in Rio.

Nine of the 13 airport terminals currently being expanded are on track to be completed in time, according to the Institute for Applied Economic Research, which said the airports had underestimated the increase in the number of travelers.

The IPEA predicted that construction at the other nine airports would only end in 2017.

Rio's international airport,

At least 15 dead in Colombia landslide

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) — At least 15 people were killed and five others were missing after a mudslide pushed a bus over an embankment and into a ravine, rescuers said yesterday.

Officials said the bus was hit by a wall of mud as it traveled along a stretch of highway some 280 kilometers (170 miles) west of Bogota, en route

however, will be up and running.

The number of passengers in Brazil grew by 117 percent from 2003 to 2010. Last year, 14 of the 20 main airports in the South American giant were operating over their capacity, the IPEA said.

Over the next four years, the number of passengers is expected to jump by 40 percent, reaching 225.9 million.

Giovanni Bisignani, CEO of the international Air Transport Association, warned last month that Brazil "will never reach its full potential without major changes in its aviation policies," as he criticized the country's "broken" airport authority.

The government has announced it will let the private sector take care of upgrades and management of some overloaded airports.

to the Colombian town of Manizales.

The dead and missing included the vehicle's two drivers and all 18 passengers, according to rescuers, who said that the bus was propelled over the embankment by the force of the avalanche.

The mudslide occurred during a particularly heavy rainy season in Colombia this year.

Mexico arrests 16 police linked to mass graves case

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (AFP) — Mexican authorities have arrested 16 police officers suspected of protecting four people wanted for massacre of at least 126 people in a northern border state.

Attorney General Marisela Morales said the police were from San Fernando, Tamaulipas where authorities have unearthed mass graves holding the bodies of 126 people.

The police are alleged to have been protecting four people -- three men and woman -- who authorities believe were directly responsible for the killings.

The victims apparently

were passengers on public buses running routes through San Fernando to Reynosa and Matamoros, two Mexican cities on the border with the United States.

The massacres have been blamed on Los Zetas drug cartel, a notorious gang headed by ex-military commandos who turned to drug trafficking, kidnappings, extortion and other crimes.

Authorities had previously arrested 17 people linked to Los Zetas. The government offered a 3.8 million dollar reward for information leading to the capture of the four chief suspects.

Spanish police make record ETA arms haul

MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Spanish police seized 1.6 tons of explosives in the biggest ever seizure in a single operation against the Basque separatist group in the country, the interior ministry said yesterday.

The seizure follows an operation launched Tuesday in northern Spain's Basque country against an ETA commando unit called "Erreka", the ministry said in a statement. Three people were arrested.

"Since the start of the operation against the Erreka commando unit, the Civil Guard seized more than 1,600 kilograms of explosive material in what is the biggest ETA haul found in Spain until now," the statement said.

Yesterday, police arrested a man in the Basque city of San Sebastian. The detention was linked to Tuesday's arrest of two brothers suspected of belonging to Erreka.

The explosives were seized from five locations, including the homes of the two men de-

tained on Tuesday, a house in a nearby village and three other locations.

Police on Tuesday found 850 kilograms (1,874 pounds) of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, 13.5 kilograms of the explosive pentrite and detonators in their pre-dawn raid at an isolated farm in Legorreta in the biggest explosives cache to be confiscated by police in Spain since 1999.

That same day, police detained Jose Aitor Esnaola, 40, and Igor Esnaola, 36, on suspicion they belonged to ETA.

Their arrest came three days after a French policeman was wounded in an armed exchange in the Creuse region of southwestern France. A couple were later detained on suspicion of belonging to ETA.

ETA is blamed for the deaths of 829 people in its four-decade campaign of bombings and shootings to force the creation of an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain and southwestern France.

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Elmar N.V. creates Customer Relations Function with a focus on better client service

ORANJESTAD -- Several years ago, our local electric distribution company, the Elmar N.V. began a process of change in their management with respect to their clientele.

With the participation of employees the company adapted its vision and created a new vision which places clients as central to their operations. With the help of an external company and through a very transparent process they began the recruiting and selection process of the ideal candidate to implement the new vision and take their service to their clientele to the next level of excellence.

Elmar N.V. does not produce electricity; it distributes electricity to both commercial and domestic clients. The company now wants to improve the distribution experience of the client. The goal is to ensure that the customer's experience is the very best. In order to achieve this they have decided to adapt the internal processes, which will require consistent dialogue and interaction with employees as well as with their clients. This led to the creation of a new function, "Customer Relations Manager." This person will be charged with the supervision of the new processes while working closely with every department. This will entail a revision of each process directed towards



clients whether for the application of services, for paying bills, for request for other services or products. The end result must be the total satisfaction of the client for the level of service rendered. Elmar N.V. is convinced that there is much room for improvement in the service they provide their clientele. They are intent on taking their service to the next level.

Through the use of a Human Resources firm announcements were placed in our local news papers requesting applications for the position of Customer Relations Manager.

Dozens of applications came in which led to the process of selection. Several

employees of Elmar also applied for the position. In the final analysis the best candidate with the best preparation for the function was selected. It is never Elmar's policy to disclose salaries of their employees, yet they consider it important to correct erroneous information from the union (UEA) about a salary of 15 thousand Aruban florins as salary for the position of Customer Relations Manager. The company has indicated that no such salary is being paid for the function in question.

The company laments the fact that the union, during a meeting with its members, publically presented erroneous information. Such action can create doubts in the credibility of the company while it is a known fact that the company has a history of transparent dealings. Because of international developments, the cost of utilities have skyrocketed, and as a result clients are demanding more and better service from companies like Elmar to ensure that they get value for their money. Elmar is prepared to respond to that demand.

Rietveld Academy interested in . . .

Continued from page 1



The government has proposed various phases of cooperation. For one, a 30 week training course planned for October 2011. From this course there may be the possibility to expand on this and eventually create a permanent program. An institution such as Rietveld would result in numerous benefits for Aruba. For one, it would benefit our local people who are interested in studying art and the various art related courses. At the same time it would allow Aruba to showcase what it can offer to the region, according to Minister Winklaar.

The Minister also believes that it would open the possibility for art lovers in the region to come to Aruba to study art here and take advantage of such a prestigious art institution. This, according to the minister, will propel us in the direction we want to go to expand our economy. This will afford us the opportunity to begin offering much more than just tourism. Tourism remains most important to us, but we must begin to diversify into other areas, such as in the area of art. The Minister referred to this as our Creative Industry as it relates to art.

There is a well known Rietveld brand throughout Europe and their willingness to work and establish here in Aruba is a high honor. In addition to culture this also relates to education coming from an internationally renowned institution.

Last year, Drs, Angelo Tromp did a feasibility study on Rietveld Academy setting up shop on Aruba, and such study proved that this is feasible. After deliberating this matter with her colleague Minister Dowers of Education, the decision was taken to invite director Tijmen van Grootheest to visit Aruba. Because van Grootheest also sees great potential for establishing here, this then led to the signing of the MOU. The MOU was signed between Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Minister of Education and Minister of Culture.

The intention is to begin as soon as possible with the realization of preliminary courses, which would lead to a Bachelor's degree program by next year. The institution will be housed in the present Offices of the Department of Culture in the month of June 2011 with the enrollment of no more than 40 local students. Teachers will come from Holland along with Aruban teachers who will teach the courses. The Minister envisions students coming from various parts of South America, the US and the Caribbean region. This opens the possibility for art students to come to Aruba to receive an accredited European degree. The Minister concluded saying that with the coming of Rietveld Academy to Aruba, signals the start of the Creative Industry and the diversification of our economy.

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Aruba Silly Bandz...

Continued from page 1

Dr. Walker, after working with the people of the local Foundation for the Mentally Challenged, (SVGA) and hearing of their mission to raise the funds to send Aruba's special athletes to the World Olympic Summer Games in Greece this coming June, was inspired. What better way for them to raise the money than to sell these uniquely Aruban Silly Bandz?

"I try to keep up with trends and fads among youth," explained Dr. Walker, "so I will have something to give my young patients as rewards for being conscientious about oral hygiene. I have always thought of Aruba as my dream home, so it struck me to have these bands made. Working with the people of the SVGA I realized their need is greater than any commercial reward, and Aruba has done so much for me, I am happy to do anything I can to give back to the

community."

Dr. Walker symbolically donated his 1,000 packets of Aruban Silly Bandz to Special Olympics Aruba Committee President Arturo Werleman and Treasurer Dennis Conrado at his offices on the Julianasstraat in Oranjestad. The committee is contemplating how best to offer them to the public as a number of festive events are scheduled for the end of this month, including the May Day celebration at the Marine Camp, and dozens of flea markets on Queen's Birthday, April 30.

Those interested in purchasing the Aruba Silly Bandz or reserving a large quantity can contact Arturo Werleman at telephone 730-0414. Every purchase helps to send Aruba's special athletes on their way towards "Going for the Gold in Greece 2011!"

by Rosalie Klein

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BACK THEN

It's still the same today, but back then it was more than just necessary to advise first time visitors about some elements on the island of which they were not familiar. There were few publications specifically for tourists. We and our surroundings are just not like anywhere else and we like to help visitors understand us.

The following were written a quarter of a century ago:

* "When you rent a car or a motor bike and take off around the countryside, we call it cunucu in Papiamentu, the language of the island, don't worry about getting lost. Just follow our world famous divi-divi trees. They always point back to the hotels because our trade winds blow in that direction and form the trees just that way.

We believe that they were put here waiting for our visitors to arrive. And don't be concerned if a road just ends. There's a big eraser floating high above Aruba that with great mischievousness will wipe out a road.



* For driftwood collectors there is a bountiful stretch of beach on the north shore of our island 'round past the lighthouse at California Point. Getting there you can view the sea from a different perspective where the Caribbean meets the inside sea and where there are crashing waves, rocks and dunes, small beaches and coves.

* The presence of pelicans is proof that our swimming waters are the cleanest anywhere.

Pelicans will not roost where there is dirty water. They can be spotted along the road past Holiday Inn, on posts near Tamarijn Hotel, and diving for food off Eagle Beach past Manchebo Hotel."



* "OOPS!"

"Our tropical tradewinds blow and blow and often do some serious gusting. And while they keep us cool and dry, they also blow sand about. So if you are two-wheeling it around Aruba, do be careful. The roads get gritty and you'll get a knee-full of sand if you fall.



* We recently wrote about the wildlife in Aruba: iguanas (who have the right-of-way), lizards, pega pegas and the like. At the request of cab drivers, local residents and other tourists, we are reprinting the final paragraph: 'Actually, the wildest things on the island are the tourists on motor scooters and we've learned to dodge them like toreadors. The emergency room at the hospital reports 4 -5 accidents every day. DO drive carefully.' "

* Today, Aruba has rain. So little in the past, it was hardly noticed. Arubans at the beach would go into the sea when a brief shower occurred. Tourists ran for shelter. One newly opened timeshare resort advertised "When it rains, we pour." Drinks were on the house.

Those brief showers also made driving a slippery event. The paved roads were such that they didn't reflect the water so that skidding was a surprise. On dirt roads water covered the bumps and holes. Driving was an adventure.



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Sci-Tech

Climate can drive seismic shifts: study

SYDNEY (AFP) - Scientists have for the first time shown a link between intensifying climate events and tectonic plate movement in findings that could provide a valuable insight into why huge tremors occur.

Understanding why plates change direction and speed is key to unlocking huge seismic events such as last month's Japan earthquake, which shifted the Earth's axis by several inches, or February's New Zealand quake.

An Australian-led team of researchers from France and Germany found that the strengthening Indian monsoon had accelerated movement of the Indian plate over the past 10 million years by a factor of about 20 percent.

Lead researcher Giampiero Iaffaldano said Wednesday that although scientists have long known that

tectonic movements influence climate by creating new mountains and sea trenches, his study was the first to show the reverse.

"The closure or opening of new ocean basins or the build of large mountain bands like the Andes or Tibet itself, those are geological processes that affect the pattern of climate," said Iaffaldano, an earth scientist with the Australian National University.

"We are showing for the first time that the opposite also is true, that the pattern of climate is then able to affect back in a feedback mechanism the motion of tectonic plates."

Iaffaldano stressed that his study did not mean that global warming would translate to stronger earthquakes happening more often, with the relevant patterns developing over "the order of millions of years."



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US lawmakers proposed bills Wednesday banning medical research on chimpanzees in the United States, the last major industrialized country to still use to the apes for experiments. "Scientists worldwide have halted chimpanzee experiments, because these intelligent creatures suffer immensely and are poor models for researching human diseases," said Elizabeth Kucinich, director of government affairs for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. Some researchers continue to mount a vigorous defense of using animals like mice and chimpanzees in labs to advance medical research. "We've made a lot of progress in research on hepatitis using chimpanzees," Southwest National Primate Research Center director John VandeBerg told The Washington Post in an interview published last month. He said the experiments led to the development of "many drugs for treating both hepatitis B and C." For his experiments, chimps infected with hepatitis underwent two medical examinations where blood was drawn to gauge the levels of the virus, while two needle biopsies extracted tissue from their livers for examination. "The animal rights people make it see

Whales can't resist a catchy pop tune: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Humpback whales love a good hit single, and every year a new catchy pop tune spreads among the male underwater crooners, said an Australian study released Thursday.

The men are the only ones who sing, likely in the hopes of making some lady whale swoon, according to the research published in the US journal Current Biology.

If there is a whale version of the King of Pop, he likely

resides off the coast of eastern Australia, because that is where the popular tune of the season has always originated for the past decade, researchers said.

The hit-making tune then ripples eastward across the South Pacific Ocean, from Australia to French Polynesia, infecting genetically distinct groups of whales who all start singing the same song during breeding season.

In typical pop music fashion, the tunes are not all that

original most of the time, said researcher Ellen Garland, a graduate student at The University of Queensland.

"It would be like splicing an old Beatles song with U2," Garland said. "Occasionally they completely throw the current song out the window and start singing a brand new song."

The 11-year study described itself as the "first documentation of a repeated, dynamic cultural change occurring across multiple populations at such a large geographic scale."

What remains a mystery is why the whales all sing the same song, when presumably their efforts are meant to make them stand out against the pack.

"We think this male quest for song novelty is in the hope of being that little bit different and perhaps more attractive to the opposite sex," said Garland.

"This is then countered by the urge to sing the same tune, by the need to conform."

New Zealand outlaws Internet file-sharing

Genre	Quality	#	License	Name	Size	Speed	Bitrate
All (15)	★★★★★	11	...	Ravalli Flats - Love You Out Loud	4.352 KB	T3 or Higher	192
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Bay Area R&B	★★★★★	11	...	Keitha Cole - 01 - Love	5.095 KB	T3 or Higher	192
Country	★★★★★	11	...	Matchbox Romance - Lovest and Liar	4.707 KB	CableDSL	192
Folk	★★★★★	10	...	Bill Withers - Lovely Day (Original Version)	4.952 KB	T1	160
General Rock	★★★★★	10	...	Dalton030 - Love Story	4.839 KB	T3 or Higher	192
Metal	★★★★★	10	...	Brykah Bado & Common - Love of my Life	3.540 KB	CableDSL	128
All (14)	★★★★★	10	...	Bonnie Raitt - Love on the Loose	3.446 KB	CableDSL	128
Art	★★★★★	10	...	192 Love Will Keep Us Alive The Eagles	9.515 KB	T3 or Higher	320
Art	★★★★★	10	...	Au Cities Bum - Love Jealous One, Love	4.350 KB	CableDSL	192
Art	★★★★★	10	...	Copeland - Love is a fast song	0.595 KB	CableDSL	192
Art	★★★★★	10	...	Bonnie Raitt - Love Has No Pride	3.574 KB	CableDSL	128
Art	★★★★★	10	...	Bonnie Raitt - Love Letter	3.820 KB	CableDSL	128
Art	★★★★★	10	...	Himes - Loveless And Goodbye	0.705 KB	T3 or Higher	192
Art	★★★★★	10	...	Zwan - Love To Love	2.532 KB	T3 or Higher	192

WELLINGTON (AFP) - New Zealand passed a law against online piracy on Thursday which outlaws file-sharing and threatens repeat offenders with having their Internet access cut off.

The new law allows for penalties of up to NZ\$15,000 (\$12,000) to be paid to the copyright owner and if this is ineffective offenders can have their Internet account suspended for up to six months.

"Online copyright infringement has been damaging for the creative industry, which has experienced significant declines in revenue as file sharing has become more prevalent," Commerce Minister Simon Power said.

"This legislation will discourage illegal file sharing and provide more effective measures to help our creative industries enforce their copyright."

The new law gives copy-

right owners the power to send evidence of alleged infringements to Internet service providers, who will then send up to three infringement notices to the account holder.

If the warnings are ignored then a claim can be made to the Copyright Tribunal which can make awards of up to NZ\$15,000 against the account holder.

The new law will take effect on September 1 but will not apply to mobile networks until October 2013.

Only the Green Party and two independent MPs voted against the bill although there were strong objections by user groups over the past year as it went through the select committee process.

MPs were accused of not understanding file sharing and Internet basics.

Brain shrinks 10 years before dementia onset: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) — People with Alzheimer's disease may start experiencing shrinking of parts of the brain as many as 10 years before the degenerative condition is diagnosed, a US study suggested on Wednesday.

While the results are still preliminary, scientists said the findings could one day provide a way to identify by MRI scan which individuals are most likely to develop the disease, which can run in families and has no cure.

US researchers followed two separate groups of people who had no signs of Alzheimer's — one group of 33 was tracked for 11 years and another group of 33 was followed for eight years.

Magnetic resonance imaging scans were performed regularly and focused on parts of the brain where Alzheimer's is typically found, such as the language and memory centers.

Over time, eight people in the first group and seven in the other developed the devastating condition.

When researchers looked back at their brain scans, they found early signs of shrinkage, or low MRI measurements, in the ones who would develop the disease.

"Of the 11 people who had the lowest MRI measurements, 55 percent developed Alzheimer's, while none of the nine people with the highest measurements developed dementia," said the study in *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

Twenty percent of those with average brain measurements developed the disease.

"This measure is potentially an important imaging marker of early changes in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease that could help predict who might develop the dementia associated with this disease and possibly even how long it would be before dementia develops," said study author Bradford Dickerson of Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Alzheimer's is a progressive brain disease that causes memory loss and behavioral changes. It attacks the brain and gradually eats away at gray matter.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia and is estimated to affect about five million Americans.

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WHO to help India probe 'superbug': report

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The World Health Organisation will help India study whether a multi-drug resistant "superbug" allegedly found in New Delhi's water poses a health risk, a report Thursday said.

The WHO "will be assisting Indian government in the research on whether the superbug is a health threat," country representative Nata

Menabde said, according to India Abroad News Service.

The decision came after British medical journal *The Lancet* reported last week deadly superbug NDM-1 (New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1) was found in 51 out of 171 New Delhi samples taken from water pools and two out of 50 tap water samples.

"Nobody is contesting whether what *Lancet* has written, but we have to confront science through science. Whether or not it's a public health threat needs to be established through research," Menabde was quoted as saying.

However, the Delhi government said on Wednesday it would distribute free chlo-

rine tablets to people as a precautionary measure against water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea and advised people to boil water.

"There is no superbug in Delhi's water," said Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, dismissing the *Lancet* report. The water "is totally safe," she said.



Nissan named Leader in innovation

Fast Company magazine and Fastcompany.com published in their March 2011 edition their list of the 50 most innovative companies worldwide. Nissan stood out as a the car company that dominates the world market in innovation. Among the 50 companies on the list, Fast Company gave Nissan the fourth position, acknowledging their creation and production of the Nissan Leaf, the first all-electric car being offered commercially anywhere in the world.

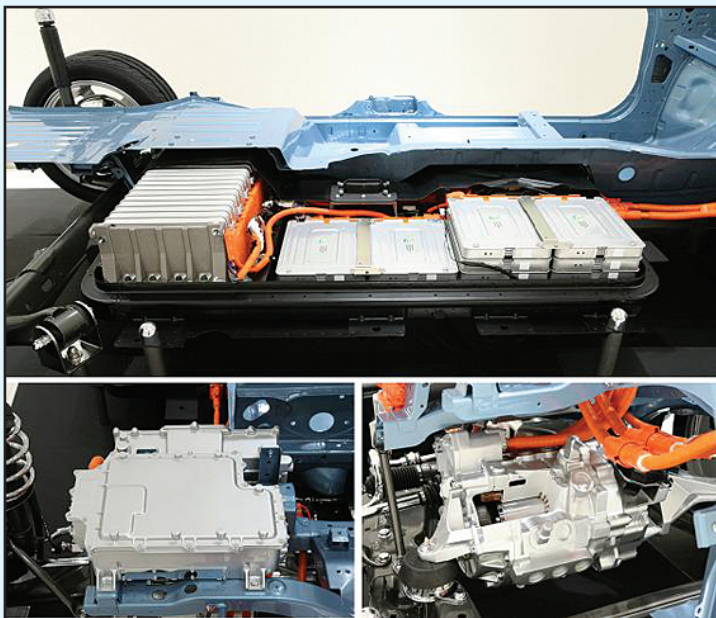


According to a spokesperson for the magazine, the 50 companies on the list follow a unique path. "The actual commercial panorama is replete with battling companies, their car models are old fashioned, and they do not fit in our actual world. How many of these companies will survive or dominate in the year 2055? Only a few. The companies on our list will dominate," he continued saying.

President and CEO of Nissan Motor Corporation, Carlos Ghosn stated that for Nissan, zero emission does not start and finish with the production of the Nissan Leaf. Nissan's technology will continue with its pursuit of obtaining an environment without pollution by drastically reducing CO2 emission. The company wants to achieve the so-called 'Zero Emission Society.'

For more information on the Nissan Zero Emission and its Green Program readers may visit the www.nissan.aw or www.nissan-zeroemission.com.

Topcar N.V. is the exclusive representative of Nissan cars on Aruba. Visit its showroom at the Caya Ernesto Petronia 21 or call at tel. 582-1547 or 582-3747 for more information on the latest car models or for parts and garage service.



Nissan Leaf battery pack



About all electric car

AN ELECTRIC CAR is powered by an electric motor instead of a gasoline engine. The electric motor gets energy from a controller, which regulates the amount of power—based on the driver's use of an accelerator pedal. The electric car (also known as electric vehicle or EV) uses energy stored in its rechargeable batteries, which are recharged by common household electricity.

Unlike a hybrid car—which is fueled by gasoline and uses a battery and motor to improve efficiency—an electric car is powered exclusively by electricity. Historically, EVs have not been widely adopted because of limited driving range before needing to be recharged, long recharging times, and a lack of commitment by automakers to produce and market electric cars that have all the creature comforts of gas-powered cars. That's changing. As battery technology improves—simultaneously increasing energy storage and reducing cost—major automakers are expected to begin introducing a new generation of electric cars.

Electric cars produce no tailpipe emissions, reduce our dependency on oil, and are cheaper to operate. Of course, the process of producing the electricity moves the emissions further upstream to the utility company's smokestack—but even dirty electricity used in electric cars usually reduces our collective carbon footprint.

Another factor is convenience: In one trip to the gas station, you can pump 330 kilowatt-hours of energy into a 10-gallon tank. It would take about 9 days to get the same amount of energy from household electric current. Fortunately, it takes hours and not days to recharge an electric car, because it's much more efficient. Speaking of convenience, let's not forget two important points: charging up at home means never going to a gas station—and electric cars require almost none of the maintenance, like oil changes and emissions checks, that internal combustion cars require.




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Ceremonial entry of Hr. Ms. Rotterdam this morning



Hr. Ms. Rotterdam, Landing Platform Dock, (LPD) of the Dutch Royal Navy now stationed in the Caribbean will be steaming into the port of Aruba this morning at 9:00 AM. For the first time in Dutch maritime history, this is an assignment in Aruba filled by an amphibious transport ship.

HMS Rotterdam will pass the piers of Aruba with the usual ceremonial gun salute to the Governor of Aruba. Naval personnel on shore will respond in kind.

Hr. Ms. Rotterdam is performing her duties as guard ship in the Caribbean region since February on a 4-month mission. The Royal Navy ship performs counter drug operations, as well as coast guard duties, humanitarian tasks and assisting during disasters.

The amphibious capability and large capacity of the ship to house and transport personnel and evacuees, makes the ship ideal for the implementation of this task. The ship can also provide one of

the most basic necessities of life with its on board distillation plant for producing fresh water.

The 166 meters long vessel has a permanent crew of 123 people and has a total accommodation for 611 people. The Rotterdam has a Westland Lynx helicopter on board. There are facilities to transport 170 armored personnel carriers, or 33 main battle tanks, and also docking facilities for up to 6 landing craft.

Loyal Aruba visitors honored



Sylvia Ann McCluskey and Michael Swance



Gary Daigneault

Recently Aruba Tourism Authority rep Jonathan Boekhoudt had the great pleasure in honoring loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. Sylvia Ann McCluskey and Michael Swance staying at the Tamarijn Beach Resort, and Gary Daigneault staying at the Tropicana Resort, received the honor of Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. They have been vacationing here for more 10 consecutive years. Photos show the honorees proudly showing off their certificates.



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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Actress MacGraw
4. Newsman Huntley
8. They're controlled by remotes
11. Mythical bird
12. Disentangle
14. Make tracks
15. Week part (abbr.)
16. Make happy
17. Quick to learn
18. Treble
20. Perform on stage
22. Accepted an applicant
24. Detour
27. Once again
28. Outer edge
29. Track meet feature
31. Boise's state (abbr.)
32. List-ending abbr.
33. Neglectful
34. Wedding transport
36. Pod occupant
37. Versailles bachelorette (abbr.)
38. Entry
40. Outdoor eateries
41. Coopers-town's Mel
42. Puerto
43. Wayfarer's stopover
45. Head monk
48. Pounds (abbr.)
51. Quilting party

DOWN

1. Gallery contents
2. Comic Costello
3. Drippy treats (3 wds.)
4. Code of beliefs
5. moon
6. Green or Mendes
7. Vietnamese
52. Unbound
53. Certain boxing wins (abbr.)
54. Welby and Kildare (abbr.)
55. Negative votes
56. Hearst's Simeon

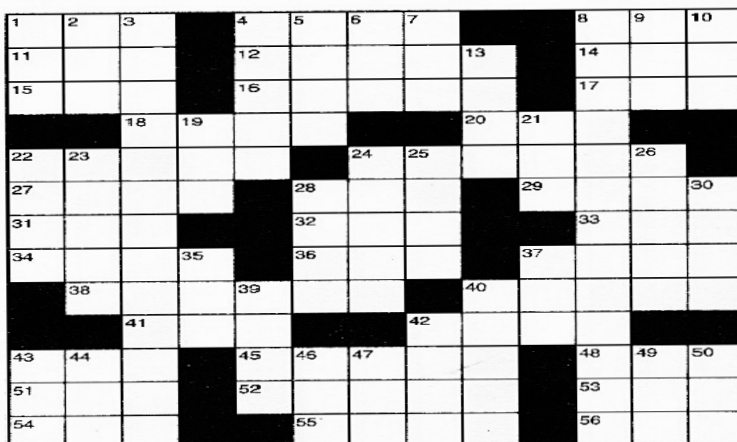
New Year

8. Porky Pig's phrase (3 wds.)
9. Bigwig (abbr.)
10. Collection
13. Jump
19. Actor Ayres
21. Camry, e.g.
22. Frozen rain
23. "Gandhi" setting
24. Gnaws
25. Local place for swimming (abbr.)
26. Dieter's device
28. Not Dems. or Inds.
30. Divorced mates
35. Fall mo.
37. Raincoat, for short

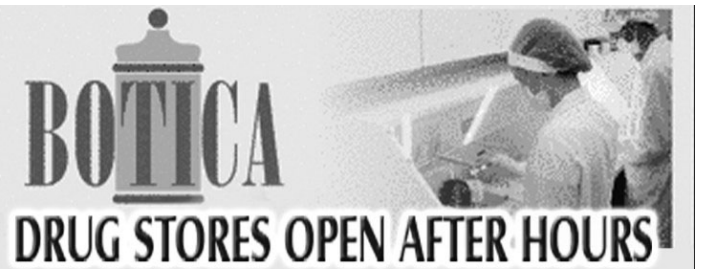
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Solution on page 130



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9	7	5	2	1	6	3	8	4
5	6	2	8	7	9	4	1	3
7	9	6	5	8	2	1	9	4
2	9	2	1	5	7	8	6	3
8	5	1	2	9	6	7	3	4
6	2	9	5	2	8	5	1	7
1	8	7	6	5	2	2	9	9
9	2	5	7	1	9	2	8	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Germany growing faster than expected

BERLIN (AFP) – The German economy is on course to expand faster than expected this year, the government said yesterday as it raised its growth forecasts for Europe's economic powerhouse.

Germany will grow by 2.6 percent in 2011, Economy Minister Rainer Bruederle told reporters, hiking a previous forecast of 2.3 percent made in January.

The growth rate will slow next year, coming in at 1.8 percent, Bruederle added, leaving Berlin's earlier forecast for 2012 unchanged.

"The recovery in Germany is on a firm footing," Bruederle said

WSJ: Warner to sell entire company, near agreement



warner | music | group

NEW YORK (AFP) – Warner Music Group Corp. is seeking to sell the entire company, rather than parts of the business, and could agree on a buyer within weeks, The Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

The newspaper, citing "people familiar with the matter," said

Warner Music's board reached the decision to pursue a sale of the whole company at a meeting on Tuesday after receiving second-round offers from bidders.

The Journal said bids were received for all of Warner Music and for one or the other of its major units -- its recorded-music business, which includes the Atlantic and Warner Bros. record labels, and the Warner/Chappell music-publishing division.

Ford recalls 1.2 million F-150 trucks

NEW YORK -- Ford Motor Co. is recalling almost 1.2 million full-sized pickups for a problem in which airbags can go off when not needed, expanding a much smaller recall it had instituted months earlier.

Ford recalled 144,000 trucks

over the problem in February but the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said at the time it was continuing to investigate the issue and might demand that the automaker issue a much larger recall, which Ford is now doing.



IMF, WBank warn on high food prices, joblessness

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The IMF and World Bank chiefs yesterday warned that high food prices and joblessness remain dangerous barriers to the world's economic and social stability despite global macroeconomic gains.

World Bank president Robert Zoellick cited soaring food prices as "the biggest threat to the poor around the world."

"We are in a danger zone because prices have already gone up; stocks for many commodities are relatively low," Zoellick said in a news conference opening the annual World Bank-International Monetary Fund spring meetings.

Meanwhile IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn warned of the possibility of a "lost generation" of unemployed youths if nations focus only on achieving fiscal balances without heeding social demands.

"It's probably too much to say that it's a jobless recovery, but it's certainly a recovery with not enough jobs."

"Especially because of youth unemployment... there is now a risk that this will be turned into a life sentence, and that there is a possibility of a lost generation," he said.

Both leaders described the economic recovery from the 2008-2009 financial crisis as frustratingly incomplete, posing serious challenges for poor and wealthy countries alike, and called on the G20 developed countries -- many of which are facing their own fiscal crises -- to focus on food and job issues.

Both cited the turmoil across the Arab crescent, especially Egypt and Tunisia, as partially born of soaring food prices and unemployment.

"We may be coming out of one crisis -- the financial and economic crisis -- but we are facing new risks and wrenching challenges," said Zoellick.

"Food prices were not the cause of the crises in the Middle East and North Africa, but they are an aggravating factor. Our latest Food Price Watch shows that there is

double-digit food price inflation in Egypt and Syria. It shows that commodity price spikes particularly hurt poor countries."

Global food prices have soared 36 percent from a year ago, according to the Bank's food price index released yesterday, pushing some 44 million people below the \$1.25 a day poverty line.

Another 10 million people would be pushed into poverty if prices rise another 10 percent, according to Food Price Watch, a Bank price monitor.

"One of the points that we are trying to emphasize through these meetings is the need for the G20 and for the World Bank and others to put food first," Zoellick said.

"Because I think we are in a particular moment of vulnerability in that if you have some other events, which you can never predict. We really don't have a cushion."

Strauss-Kahn said the focus on restoring growth has sacrificed attention to important social issues.

"Common knowledge has been for a very long time that if you have growth you have jobs," he said.

But the current situation is proving that is not always correct.

"It is not the recovery we want... The question now is jobs, jobs, jobs."

Young people might have expected the current malaise to be temporary, but it could turn into a much longer problem, employment-wise, he said.

Euro zone hit by Greek restructuring concerns

ATHENS/WASHINGTON – Greek borrowing costs soared to new highs yesterday and pressure rose on other financially weak euro zone countries after Germany suggested for the first time that Athens may have to restructure its debt.

European policymakers scrambled to reassure investors that a restructuring for Greece was not on the agenda, saying such a step could have dire consequences for European banks and the fragile economy of the 17-nation euro zone.

The Greek government also ruled out a restructuring, promising to deliver on the ambitious fiscal goals set out for it by the EU and International Monetary Fund last year in exchange for a 110 billion euro (\$160 billion)

rescue.

But doubts have risen in recent weeks about whether Greece can achieve those targets and restore confidence in its finances in time to return to the capital markets for funding next year.

With a debt mountain that is expected to approach 160 percent of annual output by 2013 and EU/IMF money due to run out that same year, some move to reduce Greece's debt burden such as reducing or postponing repayments to its bond investors looks increasingly unavoidable.

Analysts believe there is a 60 percent chance Greece will have to restructure its debt in the coming years. They put the chances for Ireland at 40 percent and Portugal at 30 percent.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

RPM	ROTC	BAD
MEA	VIDEO	RBI
SIC	IDEAL	IBM
KOS	LEERS	
CREWEL	BID	
HURL	YULETIDE	
ALE	CPA	LOA
TELEGRAM	ILES	
NRA	ENSURE	
IMAGE	EMS	
RIB	EPICS	ITS
ALI	TACOS	ORE
NEE	SLEW	NAP

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a per-

for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

manent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy

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A must see while on Aruba Bird Sanctuary



The Bubali Bird Ponds of Aruba have become home to more than 80 species of migratory birds.

Migratory birds, looking for lush vegetation in which to nest, find an oasis within the ponds, known as Bubali Bird Sanctuary. The nearby water treatment facility empties into two inter-connected man-made lakes, known as the large and small Bubali Bird Ponds.

The area has become a resting and breeding area for the more than 80 species of migratory birds.

Birds that inhabit the sanc-

tuary include herons, egrets, gulls, skimmers, coots, cormorants, numerous species of ducks and more.

An observation tower has been erected to allow bird-watchers to get a true birds' eye view.

The Bird Sanctuary (also known as Bubali Plas) is a hidden treasure located at walking distance from both the high rise resorts and low rise resorts.

The entrance is located more towards where landmark The Old Windmill is located. Entrance is free.

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Venezuelan village claims best cocoa

CHUAO, Venezuela (AFP) — As the sun beats down to dry cherished criollo beans in the main square in Chuao, residents of the village in mountainous northern Venezuela simply say: behold the world's best cocoa.

Of course, people in other countries, with chocolate on their happy faces, may beg to differ.

"If you are born in Chuao, your life is tied up with cacao," Alcides Herrera told AFP, referring to the cacao tree which yields the cocoa bean from which chocolate is made.

Since 1976, Herrera's company, Empresa Campesina Chuao, has produced Venezuela's only cocoa beans with a coveted appellation certifying their origin.

"As a kid, for example, when I was passing through the square, and you could feel a rainstorm closing in, you would stop to help gather up the beans," Herrera continued.

"Ours are the world's best cocoa beans. That has been



A worker for the local cocoa cooperative harvests cocoa pods, in the mountainous town of Chuao, 100 km from Caracas. (AFP PHOTO)

certified, and experts from many countries agree," he said. "We process by hand with techniques that have been passed down for 400 years."

More than 80 percent of the world's cocoa comes from the forastero cacao tree and less than one fifth from Chuao's criollo.

Many experts believe the criollo around here has a singular, tastier bean and they are top-of-the-list ingredients for many of the world's top chocolate-makers.

Beans from Chuao total about 18-20 tons a year; it's a tiny figure compared to the 20,000 tons Venezuela produces each year.

Recently, looking to boost output if possible, the government deemed cocoa beans a strategic crop. Now 35 percent of the annual take goes to a German firm; 35 percent goes to a new state Venezuelan Cocoa Bean Company; and the remaining 30 percent to local producers.

"We have our eyes on the sky to see if any clouds pop up," explained Maryoli Chavez, 32, one of more than 1,200 workers at the cooperative.

"I like to work on the farm. We all do a bit of every-

thing and make the same money. Some weeks I am on drying duty, other times I am out picking pods or breaking out the seeds."

On this afternoon, three of Maryoli's kids were playing at her feet.

The cocoa industry has traditionally been women's work in Venezuela. Men tend to work in construction or the coastal region's fishing industry.

On cutting duty, the women wield machetes with skill, lopping off the violet or yellow pods in seconds; a few men trailing behind pick up and transport the pods for processing.

The area is just 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Caracas, but feels a world away as one has to travel in by sea as the town is wedged between a mountain and the Caribbean coast.

Edis Liendo, a local star among cocoa bean processors, has been at it most of her life and is now 60.

"I think the cocoa bean is something from the heavens. It was what the gods used to prepare as a special drink," Liendo says, hawking candies, liquor and desserts at the door of her home.

Dutch woman's bra cure for cleavage wrinkles a hit

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands — Rachel de Boer finally told some friends a secret she'd kept for years: She slept with stuffed socks sewn between the cups of an old bra to prevent cleavage wrinkles and smooth out her neckline.

Three years later, a professionally designed and manufactured version of that same contraption is sold in 150 lingerie shops across the Netherlands and Belgium, approved by a research institute and getting interest from retail outlets in Germany, Austria, Portugal, Spain, Britain and France.

"It started out as my secret, I didn't want to talk about my wrinkles or the (first) bra I made, which was ugly," de Boer said. "But I slept like that for seven years and then I turned 40, told my friends and they admitted they also had this problem."

Sceptical but curious, her friends also wanted sock bras to smooth out their cleavage wrinkles. So De Boer made five more versions of what is

now called "La Decollette."

Her friends were so enthusiastic about the results, they encouraged the former real estate agent to stop selling houses and design an anti-wrinkle night bra that women would want to wear to bed.

La Decollette, which has a soft, padded rectangular piece of material between the collar bone and the sternum and sits between the breasts, was born and to De Boer's amazement, has addressed a problem many women all over Europe seem to share.

The cupless bra is worn at night and keeps the breasts "in place" to prevent the compressing of breasts together which De Boer says can create vertical wrinkles.

De Boer's anti-wrinkle bra has been a hit at lingerie shows around Europe and she said it also has the stamp of approval from the Parisian research institute CERCO or Center d'Etudes et de Recherches Cosmetologique.

REMEMBER

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INDONESIA, Jakarta -- Photo shows a clinic staff blowing cigarette smoke into the ear of an Indonesian patient undergoing treatment for illness using tobacco at the Griya Balur clinic in Jakarta. The treatment includes the blowing of smoke from "divine cigarettes" infused with "nanotechnology" to remove their cancer causing "free radicals." Along with cancer and autism, it's just one of the ailments the Griya Balur clinic claims it can cure with cigarettes. (AFP PHOTO)

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Nadal, Federer move closer to Monte Carlo showdown



Nadal

MONTE CARLO (AFP) - Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer moved closer to a fourth final meeting at the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday as both posted straight-set third round wins to coast into the quarter-finals.

Third seed Andy Murray, meanwhile, drew jeers for drop shots against an injured opponent, with the Scot shunning the popularity contest in his 6-3, 6-3 defeat of French 16th seed Gilles Simon.

The win was the second in as many days for Murray, who had lost a career-worst four straight matches over the last two months without winning even a set.

Friday's contest will come against a surprise opponent after world number 82 Frederico Gil of Portugal stunned Gael Mon-



Federer

fils 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 to leave French seeds 0-3 on the day.

Top seed Nadal, a consecutive six-time champion who is now unbeaten in 34 straight matches in the principality, maintained his traditional momentum to see off Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-2, 6-4.

Three-time losing finalist Federer, the number two seed, was equally ruthless as he dispatched Croatian Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-3 in 71 minutes with a break of serve per set enough to see him through.

Top clubs circle for Freiburg hot-shot Cisse



BERLIN (AFP) - Freiburg admitted Thursday they are receiving plenty of interest from top clubs -- both inside and outside Germany -- in Senegal striker Papiss Cisse, the league's top-scorer.

The 25-year-old has scored 20 goals in 27 league games this season which have helped Freiburg reach eighth in the table and in contention for a place in Europe next season.

"A few interested clubs have been testing the waters," Freiburg's director of sport Dirk Dufner told German magazine Kicker and confirmed there have been official transfer requests, without naming clubs.

Cisse is under contract until 2014, but there is no exit clause in his contract, meaning the German side could charge top prices for the Senegal striker.

Bundesliga rivals VfL Wolfsburg are said to have offered 12 million euros (17.3m US dollars) for Cisse during the January winter break, but Freiburg are said to want around 15 million euros (21.679m US dollars) for their man.



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Deccan bounce back with resounding home win

HYDERABAD (AFP) - Deccan Chargers revived their faltering Indian Premier League campaign with a 33-run thrashing of Royal Challengers Bangalore on Thursday.

Pacemen Dale Steyn and Manpreet Gony grabbed three wickets each while Ishant Sharma took one to restrict Bangalore to 142-9 after Bharat Chipli struck 61 not out to take Deccan to 175-5 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium.

The win was Deccan's first at home after eight IPL losses, including two in the current edition.

Sharma struck early for Deccan, having the dangerous Tillakaratne Dilshan caught behind in the second over for seven.

The experiment to promote tailender Zaheer Khan

as a pinch hitter also flopped, with Steyn uprooting his middle stump with a swinging full toss.

Gony then removed opening batsman Mayank Agarwal and the in-form AB de Villiers to leave Bangalore reeling at 29-4 in the seventh over.

Virat Kohli waged a lone battle, making a 51-ball 71 before falling to Gony. Chipli earlier held the Deccan innings together with his quick-fire 35-ball knock, containing five fours and three sixes.

Brief scores:

Deccan Chargers 175-5 in 20 overs (B. Chipli 61, S. Sohal 38, K. Sangakkara 36; Zaheer Khan 3-32) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 142-9 in 20 overs (V. Kohli 71, C. Pujara 25; D. Steyn 3-24, M. Gony 3-31) by 33 runs.

Barca to sue radio station over doping report

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona are set to sue Spanish radio station Cadena Cope for six million euros after it reported claims by a Real Madrid official that the Catalan football giants were involved in doping players.

Cope quoted an unidentified Real Madrid "representative" last month as saying the club had asked the Spanish football federation to take drug testing more seriously.

According to the radio station's March 13 report, Real Madrid could not understand how doctors with "question-

able reputations" could work for Barcelona.

It also cast doubt on doctors working for Valencia.

Barcelona said Thursday they will lodge a suit Friday for defamation with a public court in Barcelona.

"FC Barcelona has today presented to the civil courts in Barcelona a lawsuit against Radio Popular S.A. (COPE) for an attack on its honour deriving from the comments made by the journalist Juan Antonio Alcala in the programme 'El Partido de las 12', on March 13th this year,

which linked sportsmen and medical staff from the Club with doping practices," said a statement by Barcelona.

"FC Barcelona considers these comments to have damaged its image, prestige and reputation and that they constitute a clear attack on a constitutional right which this lawsuit will attempt to redress.

"In line with the technical valuations used to quantify this type of injury, the club is claiming 6,190,090 euros in damages."

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Streaking Bulls lock up No. 1 playoff seed

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — The Chicago Bulls locked up the top playoff seed thanks to a San Antonio loss, while Sacramento fans protested a possible Kings' move by refusing to leave their seats after defeat to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Chicago's 97-92 win over New Jersey, combined with the Spurs' 106-103 loss to Phoenix means the Bulls will

have home-court advantage throughout the NBA playoffs.

The Bulls, Phoenix and defending champion Lakers, who beat Sacramento 116-108, were three of 15 winners Wednesday as every club was in action on the final day of the 2010-11 regular season.

The Bulls playoff starts Saturday when Derrick Rose leads Chicago against the Pacers in the opener of that best-of-seven first round series.

"I'm happy, I'm definitely happy," said Rose, who is the favourite to win the league MVP award. "I wouldn't like to be on a losing team, but what's the point of celebrating now when you can get knocked out in the playoffs?"

The Bulls earned the top seed in the Eastern Conference by finishing with a 62-20 record, their best season since also finishing 62-20 in 1997-98. That year the Michael Jordan-led Bulls went on to win their sixth championship in eight years.

Chicago is on a roll heading into the playoffs after winning its final nine games of the season.

Emotions of a different sort were running high in Sacramento where the Kings lost in overtime to the Lakers in what could be the last game in Sacramento.

Lakers star Kobe Bryant's tying three-pointer with four seconds left in regulation forced overtime.

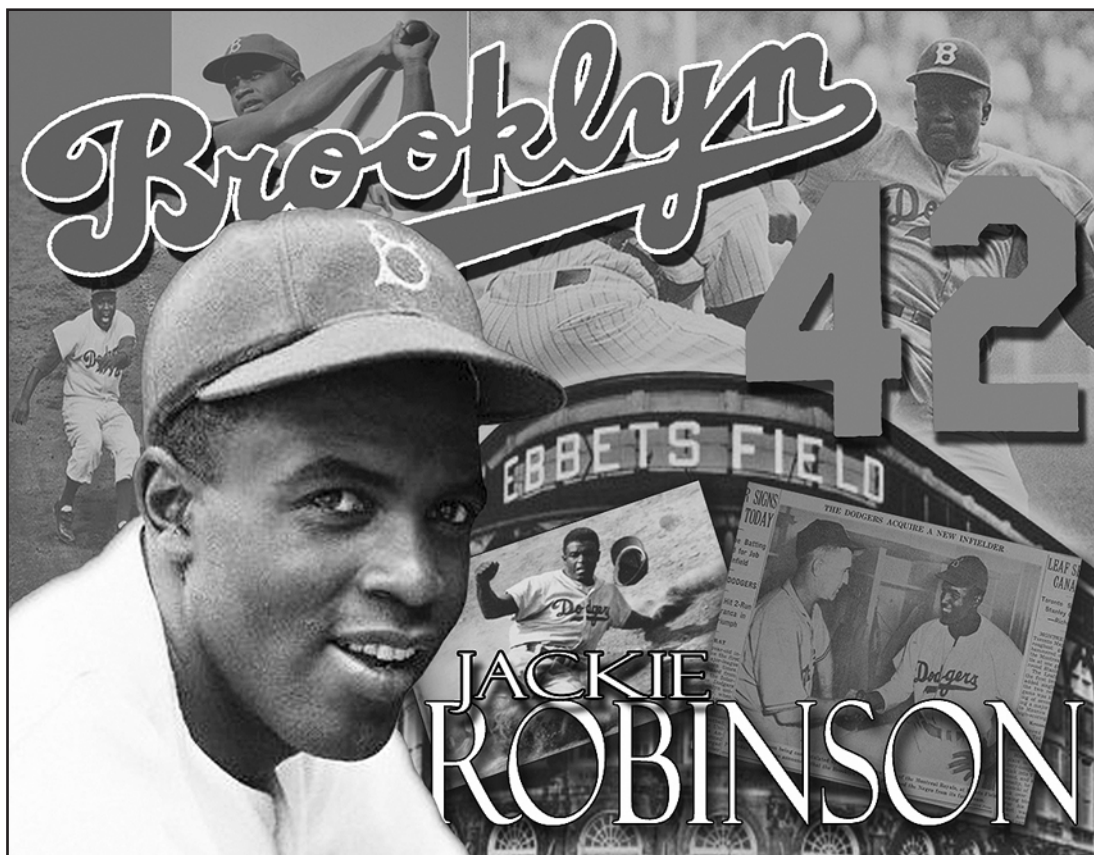
When the final buzzer sounded, thousands of Kings fans remained in their seats to protest the franchise's possible move to Anaheim, California. They chanted, "Here we stay! Here we stay!"

"No matter what happens," Garcia said, "this is always going to be our home."

The game was a preview of their Eastern Conference first-round series which begins Sunday in Boston.

Baseball pioneer will be honored throughout big leagues today

Baseball celebrates Jackie Robinson Day on April 15th



Jackie Robinson started 151 games at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, including his historic debut

Bryant fined for gay slur

NEW YORK (AFP) — The NBA fined Kobe Bryant \$100,000 for using an anti-gay slur after he was slapped with a technical foul in the Lakers 102-93 victory over San Antonio on Tuesday.

"Kobe Bryant's comment during last night's game was offensive and inexcusable," NBA commissioner David Stern said on Wednesday.

Television cameras, but not a microphone, captured Bryant's outburst when he returned to the bench after receiving a technical foul.

The video shows Bryant trying and failing to get referee Bennie Adams' attention then apparently mouthing "faggot".

on April 15 of that season.

In his 1972 autobiography, "I Never Had It Made", he recalled what it had felt like to stand alone at that position, the first and only black player in Major League Baseball at the time.

"I had to fight hard against loneliness, abuse, and the knowledge that any mistake I made would be magnified because I was the only black man out there," Robinson

wrote. "I had to fight hard to become 'just another guy.' I had to deny my true fighting spirit so that the 'noble experiment' could succeed. ... But I never cared about acceptance as much as I cared about respect."

Today is the eighth annual Jackie Robinson Day throughout the Majors, marking the 64th anniversary of the day baseball's color barrier was broken.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	6	4	.600	--
NY YANKEES	6	4	.600	--
TORONTO	6	6	.500	1.0
TAMPA	3	8	.273	3.5
BOSTON	2	9	.182	4.5

Central

CLEVELAND	8	4	.667	--
KANSAS CITY	7	4	.636	0.5
CHICAGO	7	5	.583	1.0
DETROIT	5	7	.417	3.0
MINNESOTA	4	7	.364	3.5

West

TEXAS	9	3	.750	--
LA ANGELS	7	5	.583	2.0
OAKLAND	6	6	.500	3.0
SEATTLE	4	8	.333	5.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
PHILADELPHIA	8	3	.727	--
FLORIDA	6	5	.545	2.0
WASHINGTON	5	6	.455	3.0
ATLANTA	5	7	.417	3.5
NY METS	4	7	.364	4.0

Central

CINCINNATI	8	4	.667	--
CHICAGO	6	5	.545	1.5
MILWAUKEE	6	6	.500	2.0
PITTSBURG	5	6	.455	2.5
ST. LOUIS	5	7	.417	3.0
HOUSTON	3	9	.250	5.0

West

COLORADO	8	2	.800	--
SAN FRANCISCO	6	6	.500	3.0
LA DODGERS	6	6	.500	3.0
ARIZONA	5	6	.455	3.5
SAN DIEGO	5	6	.455	3.5

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Japan to take part in Copa America

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan said Thursday they would take part in the Copa America, reversing an earlier decision to withdraw from the event in the aftermath of a massive earthquake and tsunami.

"By going out there, we want to show the international community, not simply international football circles, that Japan is hanging on," Japan Football Association vice president Kozo Tashima said.

"If we withdraw, I believe it may have a negative impact," he told a news conference after the JFA executive committee approved the trip by the Blue Samurai, who won a record fourth Asian Cup title in January.

The South American

championship in July may help show Japan what they need to do to compete at the highest level, just weeks before they kick off their campaign to qualify for a fifth straight World Cup since their debut in 1998.

Japan and Mexico are the only two non-South American sides invited to take part in the July 1-24 Copa America in Argentina.

The twin disasters of March 11 severely damaged a nuclear power plant in Japan's northeast, causing widespread electricity cuts that forced the temporary suspension of the J-League.

The league has rescheduled its backlogged fixtures to be played during a break in July.

Klitschko v Haye is on - Bonte

BERLIN (AFP) - Ukraine's Wladimir Klitschko and Great Britain's David Haye will face off in a long awaited heavyweight world title bout on June 25 or July 2, Klitschko's manager announced here on Wednesday.

According to Bernd Bonte, seven countries - including Germany, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and South Africa - are interested in hosting the eagerly awaited fight, with a final decision on where it will be held still to be made.

"The contracts (for the bout) are finalised," Bonte

told German daily Die Welt.

Ukraine's Klitschko is the defending WBO and IBF champion, while Haye holds the WBA crown.

Klitschko's elder brother, Vitali, will put his WBC heavyweight title on the line against Poland's Tomasz Adamek on September 10.

Last month Haye upped the ante in what has been a long running war of words with the Klitschko brothers by saying he planned to beat both of them.

"Once I have knocked out Wladimir, then it's onto his older brother," Haye promised.

McIlroy roars back with 'longest ever' drive



KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Rory McIlroy (pictured) stormed back from his US Masters heartache with "probably" his longest ever drive Thursday as Sweden's Alexander Noren lit up the Malaysian Open with a dazzling eight-under-par 64.

McIlroy said he was completely recovered from Sunday's agonising collapse at Augusta after hitting 69 to be five shots off Noren, whose astonishing nine birdies against one bogey gave him early control in sweltering Kuala Lumpur.

But jet-lagged US Masters champion Charl Schwartzel stumbled to one-over 73 as he came down to earth with a bump after Sunday's heroics, when he birdied the last four holes to claim a memorable victory.

Italian hotshot Matteo Manassero, 17, lay two shots back from Noren with 66 at par-72 Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club, with India's Jeev Milkha Singh among three players sharing third spot on five-under 67.

British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen carded a

solid 69 to be in contention and world number one Martin Kaymer closed the day on 70, as leader Noren admitted even he was taken by surprise by his birdie blitz.

McIlroy said his tee-shot on the par-five fifth went "at least" 400 yards after a kind bounce off a cart-path. It was just the boost the Northern Irishman needed after throwing away a four-shot lead on the Masters' final day.

"You don't say this too often, but I was actually too close to the green on a par five," he said of the monster drive. "It must have went at least 400 yards."

"I was lucky, it hit off the cart-path and it could have went out of bounds, but it stayed in bounds for me and it set up an easy birdie."

The 21-year-old was playing the course for the first time after his clubs went missing en route from Augusta, meaning he was unable to practise on Wednesday. But he said Sunday's meltdown was already a distant memory.

"What happened last week is completely behind me now," McIlroy said. "I think there were more people upset about that round than I was. I'm fine."

"It's one bad round. I'll live and I'm getting on with it and happy to be here and happy to shoot a decent first round."

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